

**THE PADRE PIO
PRAYER GROUP
of Cleveland**

Spiritual Director:
Fr. Edward J. Janoch

Chaplains:
Fr. William E. Browne
Fr. Michael Petkosek
Fr. Kevin C. Shemuga

Group Leader:
Cindy Russo TOF

**MISSION &
VISION:**

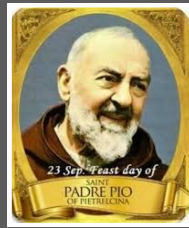
To carry out the works, words and devotion of St. Padre Pio through prayer and charitable works where we can touch lives and change souls.

Our vision is to create more Spiritual Children and lead souls to heaven.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

Oct 3 -
Padre Pio Prayer Group Gathering beginning with Rosary at 8:00 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 9080 Shepard Rd, Macedonia

Check the online Community Bulletin Board on our website to view upcoming events in the area



St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Newsletter

FEAST DAY 2020

SPECIAL EDITION

A Humble Man of Prayer

Padre Pio is understood above all else as a man of prayer. Before he was thirty years old, he had already reached the summit of the spiritual life known as the "unitive way" of transforming union with God. He prayed almost continuously. His prayers were usually very simple. He loved the Rosary and recommended it to others. To someone who asked him what legacy he wished to leave to his spiritual children, his brief reply was, "My child, the Rosary." He had a special mission to the souls in Purgatory and encouraged everyone to pray for them. He used to say, "We must empty Purgatory with our prayers." Padre Agostino Daniele, his confessor, director, and beloved friend said, "One admires in Padre Pio, his habitual union with God. When he speaks or is spoken to, we are aware that his heart and mind are not distracted from the thought and sentiment of God."

Shortly after his ordination to the priesthood on August 10, 1910, at the age of twenty-three, he wrote a letter to his spiritual director, Padre Benedetto Nardella, in which he asked permission to offer his life as a victim for sinners. He wrote, "For a long time I have felt in myself a need to offer myself to the Lord as a victim for poor sinners and for the souls in Purgatory. This desire has been growing continually in my heart so that it has now become what I would call a strong passion . . . It seems to me that Jesus wants this."

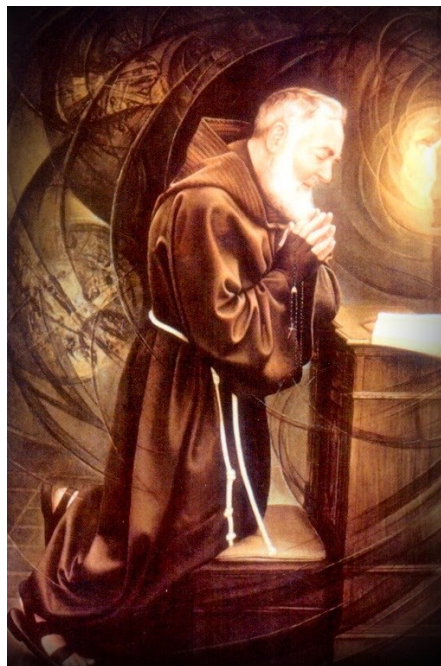
God endowed Padre Pio with many extraordinary spiritual gifts and charisms including the gift of healing, bilocation, prophecy, miracles, discernment of spirits, the ability to abstain beyond man's natural powers from both sleep and

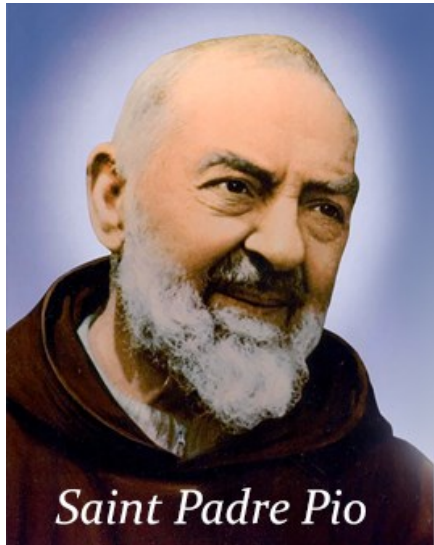
nourishment, the ability to read hearts, the gift of tongues (the ability to speak and understand languages that he had never studied), the gift of conversions, levitation, multiplication of food, the grace to see his guardian angel and other angelic beings in form, and the fragrance which emanated from his marks of the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, and which frequently announced his invisible presence. When a friend once questioned him about these charisms, Padre Pio said, "You know, they are a mystery to me, too." Although he received more than his share of spiritual gifts, he never sought them, never felt worthy of them. He never put the gifts before the Giver. He always remained humble, constantly at the disposal of Almighty God.

His day began at 2:30 a.m. when he would rise to begin his prayers and to make his preparation for Mass. He was able to carry on a busy apostolate with only a few hours of sleep each night and an amount of food that was so small (300-400 calories a day) that his fellow priests stated that it was not enough food even to keep a small child alive. Between Mass and confessions, his workday lasted 19 hours. He very rarely left the monastery and never took even a day's vacation from his grueling schedule in 51 years. He never read a newspaper or listened to the radio. He cautioned his spiritual children against watching television.

In his monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo, he lived the Franciscan spirit of poverty with detachment from self, from possessions, and from comforts. He always had a great love for the virtue of chastity, and his behavior was modest in all situations and with all people. In his lifetime, Padre Pio reconciled thousands of men and women back to their faith.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for us.





Saint Padre Pio

Through the Intercession of St. Padre Pio, We Remember Our Sick.

Padre Pio became internationally famous and was known for his piety, charity and the quality of his preaching. He famously advised, "Pray, hope and don't worry."

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968.

Pope John Paul II recognized Padre Pio as a saint on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23.

He is the patron of civil defense volunteers and adolescents.

Padre Pio's Words of Faith

"In all the events of life, you must recognize the Divine will. Adore and bless it, especially in the things which are the hardest for you."

"In my greatest sufferings, it seems to me that I no longer have a mother on this earth, but a very compassionate one in Heaven."

"Remember that God is within us when we are in a state of grace and outside of us when we are in a state of sin; but His angel never abandons us. . . He is our most sincere and faithful friend even when we sadden him with our bad behavior."

"You must always humble yourself lovingly before God and before men, because God speaks only to those who are truly humble and He enriches them with His gifts."

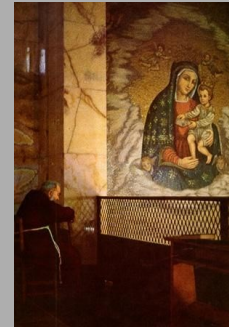
"Humility and purity are the wings which carry us to God and make us almost divine."

"Let us always keep before our eyes the fact that here on earth we are on a battlefield and that in paradise we shall receive the crown of victory; that this is a testing-ground and the prize will be awarded up above; that we are now in a land of exile while our true homeland is Heaven to which we must continually aspire."

"Jesus will assist you and give you the grace to live a heavenly life and nothing whatever will be able to separate you from His love."

"Hold on tightly to the Rosary. Be very grateful to the Madonna because it was she who gave us Jesus."

"Imagine Jesus crucified in your arms and on your chest, and say a hundred times as you kiss His chest, 'This is my hope, the living source of my happiness; this is the heart of my soul; nothing will ever separate me from His love.'"



The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland



Monthly Prayer Group Gatherings are held on the first Saturday of each month. Our Gatherings consist of Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mass, Guest Speakers and Refreshments. You can read the Mission & Vision of our Prayer Group on the front page of this newsletter. As a catalyst to pass on the work and words of St. Padre Pio, our goal is to pray, support those in need, and carry out charitable works to lead others back to Christ and the Church, just as St. Pio did in his days on earth, and become his Spiritual Children, something that he hopes to obtain in us all as followers of Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Upcoming Events listed on the front page of this newsletter.